



January 4, 2016

Happy New Year

We wish you all a Happy New Year! May 2016 bring you and your loved ones health and happiness. We greatly appreciate all that you do and look forward to another year working with our outstanding local agencies and participants!

***New Announcement* National WIC Association Conferences**

The NWA Leadership conference is scheduled for February 28th through March 2nd in Washington DC. The State office has set aside money for one participant to attend and this year we would like to offer that slot to a local agency Director or Coordinator. As there are some time sensitive logistics to consider, please email [Kate](#) ASAP if you are interested. Please include a short paragraph about why you would like to go and how you would use the information.

NWA is also holding their annual Education and Training conference this year from May 22nd-25th in Cincinnati, OH and their Nutrition and Breastfeeding conference from September 8th-10th in Denver, CO. These are excellent conferences that offer great opportunities for training and networking. Information and agendas can be viewed at <https://www.nwica.org/>.

Operational Adjustment (OA) Funding Requests

The Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Regional office requested our OA funding requests to be submitted, and there is a very quick turnaround with a due date of **January 13th**. We will be requesting money to maintain funding already obligated in your contracts, but we do have the opportunity to ask for more if needed.

If you would like to request funding for a **specific project**, please email the details and amount to Kate (kgirard@mt.gov) by **Friday, January 7th**. Thank you!

New Local Program Staff Training

The State Office will be offering training for new(er) local program staff on March 21 through March 23, 2016. Please see the [agenda](#), [registration form](#) and list of [possible hotels](#). Attendees will be expected to complete required activities before attending. These will be sent in a later newsletter. Local programs are responsible for the travel, lodging and per diem costs. No meals/snacks/beverages will be provided. If additional funding is needed to attend, please contact [Kate Girard](#). If you have any questions please email Lalittle@mt.gov or call 444-5923 or fax 406-444-0239 to Lacys' attention.

Participant Booklets

Due to a delay in printing, the January 2016 booklets are not yet distributed to local agencies. There are no new changes in the booklets, just clarifications. Participants may continue to use old booklets until the new ones arrive and retailers are aware they may accept both. As you receive the booklets and participants come into clinic, please give all participants the new booklets.

Weekly Risk Code Highlight

Risk Code 425 Inappropriate Nutrition Practices for Children- 425 is defined as routine use of feeding practices that may result in impaired nutrient status, disease, or health problems.

Some examples of when this code could be used include: a child who takes in less than 400 IU vitamin D a day via supplements or fortified foods (milk); a child who uses a sippy cup throughout the day; a child who regularly drinks sweetened beverages; using a bottle beyond 14 months of age; going to bed with a bottle...and many more! Please review the [attached guidance](#) for more details and justification.

WIC Integrity

Just a few reminders to keep our system secure and maintain integrity in our program operations.

- Please do not email any identifying or sensitive participant information, including in attachments. This includes screen shots for helpdesk calls, information for special formula orders, or technical assistance questions. Using the state ID along with the general issue is OK, but any names, DOB, addresses, or other identifying information should not be included. Email is never 100% secure and being a public servant, you are subject to requests for public records requests. This is true for on or off state network accounts.
- Please do not share your log in or password with anyone for any reason.
- Please do not hand out formula at the clinic unless it is a special order formula on the food package. This goes for returned formula and/or donated formula.

If you have any questions about these reminders, please do not hesitate to call the State office. We hold confidentiality and program integrity to be our highest priority. Thank you for the great work you do to support this endeavor.

2016 Retail Monitoring Notifications

Most WIC agencies should expect a notification of which stores in their areas need to be monitored in 2016. Retailer monitoring helps to detect possible fraud and is an opportunity to provide training and build positive relationships with WIC stores. All monitoring this year must be completed by the end of August 2016 and there is one very important change to the process. If a retailer does not have the required minimum stock of WIC foods on the shelf at the time of the monitoring visit, the local agency staff must verify that any missing items are ordered and stocked within 30 days. This means another visit to the store to verify might be necessary.

When you receive your monitoring notification and decide when you want to do the visits, please contact Kevin at (406) 444-4746 to order education-buy benefits, and let him know if you have any questions or concerns.

January Outreach Idea

In the month of January, focus your outreach at Colleges and Vocational Schools. Head towards the Financial Aid and Student Services' Center to post pamphlets and posters on billboards, and/or leave informational brochures at the counter. Also, ask the staff if they know of anywhere else on campus you could promote WIC. Thank you all for your outreach efforts in 2015, and Happy New Year!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Help us keep the distribution list updated - send e-mail address changes, additions and deletions to the WIC State Office at 1-800-433-4298.

